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State Controller Issues Statement on Diabetes-Related Hospitalizations in California

SACRAMENTO - State Controller John Chiang today issued the following statement in response to the new UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and California Center for Public Health Advocacy [study](#) that found that diabetes patients account for one-in-three hospitalizations in California:

"This study highlights the growing, costly problem of diabetes on patients, our health care system, budgets and taxpayers. Investing in prevention and wellness strategies that keep people healthier now can help to reduce the demand for medical care and the drain on budgets in the future."

As a board member of CalPERS, Controller Chiang has fought for prevention and wellness strategies to lower CalPERS' health care costs and save taxpayer dollars. He commissioned a 2012 study by the Urban Institute and funded by The California Endowment on CalPERS' health costs related to preventable conditions. The study found that of the \$1.6 billion PERS spent on health care services for state employees in 2008, 22.4 percent, or \$362 million, was for health care services attributable to chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease – all diseases that can be prevented, or at least better managed, through changes in diet and increased physical activity.

In response, the Controller initiated a three-year state employee wellness pilot program – in partnership with SEIU Local 1000, the California Department of Human Resources, CalPERS, the State Treasurer's Office, and Kaiser Permanente – to identify ways to improve employee health and bend the cost curve for conditions preventable through diet and exercise. The pilot, Healthier U, is being conducted at the California Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Services, whose employee populations are reflective of the demographics and general health conditions of state employees.

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